

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
BEAUFORT DIVISION

Kevin Mellette)	
a/k/a Kevin Mellette, #238297,)	C/A No. 9:23-cv-00911-JDA
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	OPINION AND ORDER
)	
Ms. Ray, <i>Director</i> ,)	
Ms. Greg-Wright, <i>Corporal</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

This matter is before the Court on a Report and Recommendation (“Report”) of the Magistrate Judge. [Doc. 53.] In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2) (D.S.C.), this matter was referred to United States Magistrate Judge Molly H. Cherry for pre-trial proceedings.

By Order dated May 1, 2023, Plaintiff was advised of his duty to keep the Court informed of his current address. [Doc. 10 at 3.] On December 7, 2023, Defendants filed a motion for summary judgment. [Doc. 39.] The next day, this Court issued an Order pursuant to *Roseboro v. Garrison*, 528 F.2d 309 (4th Cir. 1975), advising Plaintiff of the summary judgment/dismissal procedure and the possible consequences if he failed to respond adequately. [Doc. 40.] Despite the explanation of the summary judgment/dismissal procedure and the possible consequences for failing to respond, Plaintiff did not respond.

On March 1, 2024, the Court ordered Plaintiff to file his response to Defendants’ summary judgment motion by March 21, 2024. [Doc. 49.] Plaintiff was further advised

that if he failed to respond, his claims would be subject to dismissal for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) and for failure to comply with this Court's Orders. [*Id.*] Again, Plaintiff filed no response.

On the same day, a document that had been mailed to Plaintiff at his last known address at the Sumter County Detention Center was returned to the Court, marked "RETURN TO SENDER/NOT AT THIS ADDRESS." [Doc. 47.]

On April 24, 2024, the Magistrate Judge issued a Report recommending that this action be dismissed for failure to prosecute. [Doc. 53.] The Magistrate Judge advised Plaintiff of the procedures and requirements for filing objections to the Report and the serious consequences if he failed to do so. [*Id.* at 4.] He did not file objections to the Report, and the time to do so has lapsed. Then, on May 17, 2024, another document that the Court had mailed to Plaintiff at his last known address at the Sumter County Detention Center was returned with a note stating "Released from Facility." [Doc. 55.]

The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to this Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with this Court. *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261, 270–71 (1976). The Court is charged with making a *de novo* determination of only those portions of the Report that have been specifically objected to, and the Court may accept, reject, or modify the Report, in whole or in part. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). The Court will review the Report only for clear error in the absence of an objection. See *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (stating that "in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a *de novo* review, but instead must

only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation” (citation omitted)).

After considering the record in this case, the applicable law, and the Report of the Magistrate Judge, the Court finds no clear error and agrees with the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge. Additionally, it appears to the Court that Plaintiff has been released from custody. Plaintiff has been warned to always keep the Court apprised in writing of his current address in the event that his address has changed:

You are ordered to always keep the Clerk of Court advised **in writing (Post Office Box 835, Charleston, South Carolina 29402)** if your address changes for any reason, so as to assure that orders or other matters that specify deadlines for you to meet will be received by you. If as a result of your failure to comply with this Order, you fail to meet a deadline set by this court, **your case may be dismissed for violating this Order**. Therefore, if you have a change of address before this case is ended, you must comply with this Order by immediately advising the Clerk of Court in writing of such change of address and providing the court with the docket number of all pending cases you have filed with this court. Your failure to do so will not be excused by the court.

[Doc. 10 at 3.] Because Plaintiff did not respond to Defendants’ summary judgment motion and the time for response has lapsed, and because he has failed to keep the Court apprised of his current mailing address, he has failed to prosecute this case and has failed to comply with the Orders of this Court. As Plaintiff has already ignored this Court’s Order and deadlines, sanctions less drastic than dismissal would not be effective.

Accordingly, this action is DISMISSED with prejudice pursuant to Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. As a result, Defendants’ motion for summary judgment is FOUND AS MOOT. [Doc. 39.]

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Jacquelyn D. Austin
United States District Judge

May 28, 2024
Charleston, South Carolina